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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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I. China Family Planning Association (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

China Family Planning Association (CFPA) is the largest non-governmental network in China active in reproductive health, family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention and care. CFPA was founded in 1980 and became a full member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation in 1983. Its mission is to act as a channel for external resources and expertise while taking a role in public mobilization and education for population and health programmes. In its first decade, CFPA established a branch in almost every village in China and mobilized some 94 million members and volunteers. The network soon developed into a two-way channel of communication between the public and the Government, and in many cases provided a forum for health professionals and community activists supportive of rational regulation and higher-quality services. In the mid-1990s, the Association's informal advocacy and monitoring mandate was officially recognized by the central Government, which endorsed its role in policy reform and programme oversight at local and provincial levels.

China's endorsement of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals encouraged CFPA in many parts of China to expand projects already integrating reproductive health and women's empowerment into community development and anti-poverty efforts. **Four core missions**: CFPA (a) concentrates on serving those who are not reached by the Government or the expanding private sector, such as the poorer, younger, rural and migrant populations; (b) recognizes that women face acute social challenges in the nation's economic restructuring and seeks practical ways to empower women educationally and economically and expand their opportunities and choices; (c) recognizes that contraception is only one element, albeit vital, in a spectrum of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services that must be universally accessible, regardless of income or geography; (d) upholds total transparency in public decisions and complete accountability in public programmes, exercising its mandate of democratic participation and supervision as a model for civil society. **Five strategic focus areas**: As a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, CFPA actively supports local, provincial and national initiatives.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The programmes of CFPA focus on poverty alleviation, improvement of adolescent reproductive health and gender equality. Senior representatives and youth members of CFPA participated in various meetings/conferences: **2005**: Third Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health, with the theme "Expanded and comprehensive response in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all communities" (Marina Mahathir, Malaysia). **2006**: XVI International AIDS Conference (Toronto, Canada); one booth was managed by CFPA in the global village and one oral presentation on partnership with adults was presented during the conference; **2007**: (a) 60th Annual Department of Public Information/ Non-Governmental Organization Conference, "Climate change: how it impacts us all" (United Nations Headquarters); (b) Eighth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific titled "Waves of change, waves of hope" (Colombo); (c) Fourth

Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights, organized under the theme "Exploring new frontiers in sexual and reproductive health and rights" (Hyderabad, India). **2008**: 61st annual Department of Public Information/ Non-Governmental Organizations conference, "Reaffirming human rights for all, the Universal Declaration at 60" (Paris).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and other specialized agencies in the field of reproductive health: All the projects were planned and implemented for the realization of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action and Millennium Development Goals: **Goals 3 — Promote gender equality and empower women, Goal 4 — Reduce child mortality, Goal 5 — Improve maternal health and Goal 7 — Ensure environmental sustainability**.

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health education: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) country programme (2006-2010): due to the excellent achievements of CFPA in adolescent sexual and reproductive health education, it is one of the implementation agencies of the China/UNFPA family planning and other reproductive health programmes (2006-2010) and is mainly responsible for young migrants and the establishment of youth networks as well as condom use promotion among the high-risk groups. By taking advantage of its extensive network, CFPA promoted the increased availability of high-quality, client-centred, gender-sensitive reproductive health and family planning information and services, including those focusing on HIV/AIDS and client rights, as well as migrants, in project areas. **Cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO)**: As there are about 200 million people in China who migrate from the rural to the urban areas for employment, to prevent unsafe sex, unwanted pregnancies and abortions, CFPA cooperated with ILO to select enterprises for pilot education on sexual and reproductive health among young people, including of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) prevention, contraceptive use and relationship and value clarification. A high-level advocacy meeting was organized to draw attention to adolescent sexual and reproductive health, especially among girls and young women. Various Government departments and national and international NGOs were invited and the formulation and amendment of related policies were promoted. A youth forum was held to discuss issues and challenges facing young people, university students, sex workers and men having sex with men and service providers were invited. **China Youth Network**: The objective was to increase the availability of high-quality, integrated, client-centred, gender-sensitive reproductive health and family planning information and services, including those focusing on HIV/AIDS and client rights, for women, men, young people and migrants in project areas. Youth representatives and mentors in the 30 UNFPA project counties were selected and trained with the cooperation of the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China at national and county level. A Peer Education tool kit and the Youth Partnership Manual — Collaboration and Advocacy were edited, translated and printed. **Life skills training**: In order to identify the situation of the project counties and the issues to be addressed in the project, CFPA organized a baseline survey on the existing situation and needs in terms of sexual and reproductive health among young migrants in project sites. The results of the survey were used as a reference to draw up action plans, a curriculum and information, education and communication/behaviour change communication materials for the project and for decision-making in the workplan. Life planning skills training was provided to the

young people in and out of school. **RAP (Rights, Acceptance, Participation) tool**[1] **development**: With the support of the Government of the Netherlands, CFPA conducted a project in cooperation with the Rutgers Nisso Group and the World Population Foundation in Jiangsu Province, and a meeting for the training of trainers was conducted in the past two years. **Men's participation and gender equality**: In cooperation with PATH (Programme of Appropriate Technology in Health), a project named "Promoting men's health and gender equality" was implemented in some factories where male workers participate. **HIV/AIDS/STI prevention**: Due to the excellent results on HIV/AIDS prevention in Liuzhou by the "100% condom use" project, UNFPA selected CFPA project site Liuzhou as the model in its country programme for the other project counties. A UNFPA country programme (2006-2010) of 100% condom use promotion in entertainment establishments was implemented, involving close collaboration with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Awareness of condom use and voluntary testing and counselling services among the target group increased. A multisector cooperation mechanism was established in each project county and staff capacity in the project sites has been strengthened. **High-level advocacy meetings held on the International Planned Parenthood Federation Report Card on HIV prevention among girls and young women**: A National Youth Forum was held to gain the views of young people from diverse groups, including gays and lesbians and sex workers. A National Stakeholder Forum, involving Government and international agencies, was held to address the implementation of the Report Card's recommendations. **HIV/AIDS prevention activities during the Olympic Games**: The twenty-ninth Olympic Games were held in Beijing in August 2008. It was vital to increase awareness and improve the knowledge of HIV and STI prevention among thousands of youth volunteers and service providers entertainment establishments. Activities on HIV/AIDS prevention were conducted among youth in 138 bars on the street. **Scaling-up the experiences on HIV/AIDS prevention to the general population and high-risk groups in more counties**: Since 1998, CFPA has successfully made improvements and developed progress in HIV/AIDS prevention education to reach millions of urban youth and rural emigrants, as well as Family Planning Association members as potential community opinion leaders. With the support of the International Planned Parenthood Federation and JTF (Japan Trust Fund for HIV and AIDS), CFPA carried out HIV/AIDS prevention projects among men having sex with men in Wuhan, Hubei Province. The project was welcomed by the participants and it was a success, as there was a large gathering of men seeking information. With the call of CFPA on HIV/AIDS prevention, a variety of activities were created by local Family Planning Associations all over the country using the occasions of the anniversary of CFPA (29 May) and World AIDS Day (1 December). With the recognition of HIV/AIDS prevention as one of the key strategy areas for CFPA, the Association acquired funding from the Chinese Government to carry out the programme nationwide. CFPA has expanded the HIV/AIDS prevention programmes to more counties and training workshops and forums for exchange of experiences were held. As a member of the Country Coordinating Mechanism of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, CFPA implemented a series of activities on HIV/AIDS prevention for groups such as prisoners, fishermen, soldiers, truck drivers, etc. **Men who have sex**

[1] RAP: Rights (young people are able to lead a healthy sex life), Acceptance (young people are

with men: HIV/AIDS prevention projects were held in some selected provinces as the HIV/STI epidemic is increasing rapidly among these men. **Cares programmes**: CFPA cooperated with 10 other departments to issue a document on the cares programme campaign that provides assistance to some special groups, namely, parents who have lost a child, women of childbearing age, girls, and family planning staff at the grass-roots level. About RMB 33 million were donated by all walks of life in China to support the cares program project. A national launch meeting and a thanksgiving meeting were conducted in the People's Congress Hall by CFPA; vice premiers were invited to participate in the meeting for high-level advocacy. **Muslim reproductive health promotion**: There are more than 20 million Muslims in Ningxia and Xinjiang. Funded by the Ford Foundation, CFPA continues its work to promote reproductive health among the Muslim population via Muslim leaders by advocating for healthier lifestyles involving washing before intercourse, putting underwear in the sun, taking care during the menstrual period and nurturing good habits. Health check-ups and counselling in reproductive health have also been provided to Muslim women. **Actions after the earthquake**: After the earthquake disaster in Sichuan, CFPA cooperated with UNFPA and UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), and other international agencies to support the people affected by the earthquake and provided psychological therapy.

2. International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights (Special; 1993)

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization: The International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights (INTERIGHTS) provides leadership and support in the legal protection of human rights. It works to ensure that human rights standards are defended effectively in both domestic courts and before regional and international bodies. It contributes to the development of a cumulative and progressive interpretation of universal human rights and to their effective use in both international and regional arenas as well as national courts. It aims to ensure that not only are existing standards protected, but that standards are developed regarding new issues of concern, such as threats to fundamental human rights posed by the counter-terrorism measures adopted by some States.

INTERIGHTS has four main methods of working: (a) providing expertise and support on strategic human rights litigation in priority thematic areas and other issues of particular regional significance or impact; (b) building legal capacity through targeted training in human rights law and through litigation together with local partners; (c) disseminating legal information that enhances the use of human rights law and practice; (d) contributing to international and regional human rights standard-setting.

The thematic areas, taking into account shifting areas of threat and new opportunities for jurisprudential development, are: economic and social rights, equality, and security and the rule of law.

INTERIGHTS works regionally in Africa, Europe, the Commonwealth, the Middle East and North Africa, and South Asia and holds observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Council of Europe, and is

European Social Charter. It has accredited status with the Commonwealth Secretariat.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

INTERIGHTS, in conjunction with the Fiji Human Rights Commission, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Commonwealth Secretariat organized a colloquium and workshop on the theme "Justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights in the Pacific" in Suva in June 2006. The seminar brought together jurists from across the Pacific Islands region, together with Australia and New Zealand, to discuss the role of and the challenges faced by the judiciary in protecting economic, social and cultural rights. The event was the first of its kind in the region and should contribute to the development of economic, social and cultural rights jurisprudence both locally and beyond. In addition to hearing commentaries by local judges, participants attended a number of sessions given by international experts on issues such as non-State actors and economic, social and cultural rights, the role of a national human rights institution in securing economic, social and cultural rights protection, the international legal framework and justiciability at the domestic level. These were complemented by a practical exercise on the right to health organized by the regional office of OHCHR.

INTERIGHTS is a member of a coalition of NGOs supporting the creation of an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and has played an active role in recent years in a dialogue between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which is a member of the Working Group, and civil society on the potential value and content of an optional protocol.

Cooperation with the United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field

INTERIGHTS provides advice to lawyers, judges and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the effective invocation of United Nations human rights standards in cases worldwide at the domestic and regional levels and on the techniques of utilizing international mechanisms in specific cases.

INTERIGHTS Bulletin, published twice a year, contains summaries of decisions from United Nations juridical bodies such as the Committee against Torture, the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Human Rights Committee. It also includes articles about topics relating to the practical use of international human rights law, including United Nations instruments and information about recent developments.

The *Commonwealth Human Rights Law Digest*, issued twice a year, carries summaries of human rights-related decisions of senior international and Commonwealth national courts. Judgements have been featured from almost all Commonwealth jurisdictions, particularly those which refer to United Nations or regional human rights standards.

Commonwealth Net is a monthly e-mail of significant human rights decisions from common law jurisdictions which is compiled by INTERIGHTS and e-mailed [illegible]

international human rights case law databases containing summaries of decisions of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Committee against Torture and other United Nations human rights bodies. The databases hold over 2,000 case summaries and are freely accessible to users around the globe.

In 2005, the INTERIGHTS Litigation Director published *The 'War on Terror' and the Framework of International Law* (Cambridge University Press), setting out the international legal framework governing terrorism and counter-terrorism and highlighting examples of international practice since 11 September 2001. The publication refers to the role of the United Nations, mainly the Security Council, and to various United Nations instruments and committees. The INTERIGHTS Senior Lawyer on Economic and Social Rights contributed to the Accountability of Health Professionals project coordinated by the former Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest obtainable standard of physical and mental health.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: Goal 2 — Achieve universal primary education: In February 2007 INTERIGHTS published *INTERIGHTS Bulletin*, Volume 15, Issue 4 — Empowering the Next Generation: Securing the Right to Education in the Next Millennium.

3. Jaime Guzman Errazuriz Foundation (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization: The Jaime Guzman Foundation (FJG) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) working locally in Chile encouraging young professionals to work in the public service, such as working in low-income municipalities or in other NGOs. We also have a programme to promote young professional work in Congress studying legislative issues, and in municipalities.

Change in the directory and executive director: While the organization's aims and purposes remained the same, the change in the administration has had an impact on the work of the organization, improving our public profile.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nation

The organization did not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council or its subsidiary bodies, in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period because it focused its activities on the development and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, especially reducing poverty in Chile.

Meanwhile, we are following the issues closely and we try to inform the National Congress about what is going on in the United Nations: (a) Follow-up to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In March 2008, International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 was approved in Chile; our organization negotiated the terms of the law that was approved. Now we have one representative working on the drafting of a new indigenous law; (b) Research papers: "The case presented in the International Court of Justice about the maritime controversy

discussions with officials of the World Bank in November 2008 and incorporated significant improvements to the theoretical framework for the "family index" that was discussed on that occasion.

Activities in line with Millennium Developments Goals: Goal 1 — Eradicate extreme poverty. Our programme "Jóvenes al servicio de Chile" is deployed in 93 different places all over the country in 70 municipalities, representing 22 per cent of the municipalities of Chile. **Goal 2** — Achieve universal primary education. Twenty professionals from the programme have been working in the period 2005-2008 in the education field; they are in schools, developing educational programmes, and also work to improve the quality of education in the most vulnerable sectors. The impact of these young professionals is very difficult to measure in the short time they have been working, but municipalities, schools and education NGOs continue to demand professionals from our institution.

4. Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (Special; 1981)

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization: The Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA) was established in 1966 and has continued to function as the pre-eminent legal association representing the profession in the region. Its aims and objectives include, inter alia, to: (a) promote the administration of justice, the protection of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law within the region; (b) advance the standard of legal education within the region by all practicable means; (c) encourage communication and liaison between members in relation to general and specialized areas of law; (d) promote development of the law in the region; (e) advance the science of jurisprudence in all its phases and to promote the study and development of international law and of comparative law; (f) promote uniformity within the region in appropriate fields of law; (g) further international understanding and goodwill; (h) foster relations and interaction between lawyers and associations and organizations of lawyers within the region; (i) uphold and advance the status of the legal profession within the region.

LAWASIA achieves its aims and objectives through arranging regional interface between lawyers and between the associations that represent them. It delivers high-level continuing legal education at regular conferences and seminars, aimed at promoting cross-jurisdictional exchanges of information amongst developed jurisdictions as well as capacity-building in developing jurisdictions. It releases public statements, writes letters, and arranges observer missions and other interventions on issues of importance to the legal profession throughout the region. In doing this, it also encourages attention to matters pertaining to the rule of law and human rights. It publishes a range of material aimed at increasing legal education in the region in support of the rule of law, the administration of justice and a mutual understanding of legal regimes, principles and legislation throughout the region. Importantly, it provides a representative voice for the legal profession of Asia and the Pacific, which is facilitated through the membership of nationally representative legal associations of 26 members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific region.

The peak legal body of each of these countries holds a seat on the LAWASIA Council, which meets annually at various locations throughout the region. Since its last quadrennial report, LAWASIA has added Timor-Leste, the Solomon Islands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (via the Law Society of England and Wales) to its member countries. It works continually to encourage the representative legal bodies of various non-member countries in the region to participate as members in a regional association of the legal profession that is focused on upholding the rule of law and promoting human rights.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Professor Maxime Tardu was LAWASIA's accredited representation at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and at the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and at Headquarters. The representative regularly attended, observed and reported on sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and, subsequently, the Human Rights Council. His reports on discussions, resolutions and issues were reproduced in the organization's newsletter, the "LAWASIA Update." He reported on United Nations reforms in 2005, including the establishment of the United Nations Human Rights Council, resolutions of the Council affecting Asian-Pacific countries and discussions on the universal periodic review mechanism. In July 2008 he travelled to Australia where he addressed a group of LAWASIA members on the changes and challenges to the human rights system at the United Nations. The Executive Committee and Country Councillor for Nepal attended the United Nations 58th Annual Department of Public Information/ Non-Governmental Organizations Conference in New York in September 2005.

LAWASIA assisted the Japan Bar Association and the International Criminal Bar in the organization of a seminar on the International Criminal Court and the accession of Asian countries to the Rome Statute (Tokyo, 2007).

LAWASIA is prevented by a limited budget and voluntary participation from attending many United Nations conferences and meetings. However, its publicly released statements of principle, etc. will frequently be based on or refer to United Nations conventions, treaties, principles, statements, etc. These include but are not limited to the following: (a) reference to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and United Nations activity in observer mission report on Nepal, May 2005; (b) reference to the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Havana, 1990) in the following: (i) statement condemning violence against lawyers/judges in the Philippines, 7 November 2005; (ii) letter to the Prime Minister of Malaysia concerning the safety of lawyers appearing in the Lina Joy apostasy case, August 2006; (iii) statement condemning the attack on a Sri Lankan human rights lawyer, 13 October 2008; (iv) letter to the Attorney General of Myanmar on the rights of lawyers, 12 November 2008; (v) statement of support for the establishment of the United Nations Human Rights Council, October 2005; (vi) support for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and a moratorium on the use of death penalty, in a LAWASIA position statement on the death penalty, 31 October 2008.

Support of views expressed by United Nations representatives on: (a) international support to provide resources for an alternative justice mechanism to complete the work of the Serious Crimes Unit and Special Panels for Serious Crimes in East Timor, October 2005; (b) statement on the use of force in dealing with protesters in Nepal, 19 April 2006; (c) statement on unrest in Tibet, Autonomous Region of China, 7 April 2008; (d) statement calling for aid following cyclone devastation in Myanmar, May 2008. Wherever possible and appropriate, United Nations representatives are among specially targeted speakers for LAWASIA conferences and meetings within the relevance of the material under discussion. The "LAWASIA Update" regularly carries reports and news of United Nations initiatives.

5. Society for Development of Services in Heliopolis (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization: The Heliopolis Development Association is an NGO working to develop the local society through the following activities. **Education**: Believing that education and raising the level of educational institutions is the best way to put the new generations on the right track that leads to achieving their goals, the Association helps in: (a) developing educational institutions and upgrading their facilities, providing the services needed for the activities associated with the education process and training teachers; (b) developing the residential areas surrounding schools to create a better social environment for the students to allow better health, social and educational care. **Culture**: The Association contributes to: (a) establishing and running libraries (public and school libraries as well as mobile libraries), organizing cultural contests and holding conferences and workshops; (b) establishing museums; (c) establishing parks. **Health**: (a) upgrading the level of medical services in public hospitals and medical centres; (b) organizing medical caravans for different parts of Egypt; (c) launching campaigns for raising awareness about health issues (immunization and blood donation campaigns). **Environment**: (a) raising public awareness about environmental issues and problems among different categories of the society through providing a "green corner" in the libraries as well as launching environmental awareness campaigns; (b) incorporating the environment aspect as a main element of the Association's policies and plans through sponsoring projects for maintaining the architectural heritage and urban designs. **Consumer protection**: (a) organizing conferences and seminars for consumer protection; (b) publishing periodicals and briefing papers on consumer protection. **Economic development**: (a) cooperating with different associations and agencies to set up small enterprises in rural areas to help eliminate the problem of unemployment; (b) signing contracts and protocols with economic institutions to develop and invest in the resources of the Association. It is worth mentioning that the geographic area for the Association's activities has been broadened to include Egypt as a whole and not only Cairo Governorate.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The organization did not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council or its subsidiary bodies, in major conferences or other United Nations meetings

during the reporting period because it focused its activities on the development and implementation of the Suzan Mubarak Museum for Children — Suzan Mubarak Family Garden and the project of developing 100 schools (see below).

Activities of the Association: The Association developed various projects in order to achieve its goal of developing the society. The most important among these projects are: **Suzan Mubarak Museum for Children** is surrounded by a 13 feddan [about 13.5 acres] garden. Her Excellency Suzan Mubarak, head of the board of directors, also heads a working team of Egyptian and international experts in the fields of science, technology, history, geography, child psychology, education, environment, geology and construction, which works to make this museum a comprehensive technological and educational space that provides the child with a comprehensive framework presenting Egypt. The museum was inaugurated on 30 May 1996. The idea was to create interaction between children and human and natural elements in their surrounding environment so that by using all their senses and intellectual capabilities they could get to know the relations between things and their environment. The children's journey through the museum allows them to discover themselves and to realize that they are part of a whole and to be a useful part of this whole. The museum depicts the story of mankind, nature and civilization in Egypt and its development throughout history. Out of Mrs. Mubarak's desire to keep the museum up to date with the recent world technological developments, renovations were begun in 2006 according to the latest technology of museums around the world; the renovation is in progress.

Suzan Mubarak Family Garden: The Heliopolis Development Association, headed by H. E. Mrs. Suzan Mubarak, established a garden that benefits the whole family. The garden was designed following the latest electronic and entertainment technologies. It is located on 42 feddans [43.5 acres] in the New Cairo area. Establishing this garden was a distinguished activity as it encompasses social, cultural, educational and development activities. The garden has many divisions: (a) reception and the management building exhibiting artwork done by children in the workshops affiliated to the garden and a theatre; (b) The palace of discovering talents and the five senses: this is an oval-shaped theatre with five halls that symbolize the five senses, and the building is in the shape of a hand. It has a number of workshops to assist children to develop the skills of social interaction and intellectual creativity as well as exhibition rooms for the children's art; (c) entertainment area: this consists of a number of restaurants and entertainment areas that have the latest entertainment games; (d) children's playgrounds: these are reserved for children less than 10 years old; (e) lotus playgrounds: this is an area reserved for children less than 10 years old. It has a pergola for musical bands and an open area for games; (f) safari area: this is a small zoo that has a variety of animals and birds; (g) the lake restaurant: this restaurant overlooks an artificial lake, where there are various birds like swans and ducks; (h) the forest restaurant: designed to blend with nature, it sells fast food and souvenirs; (i) the rural area: this area has many workshops for textiles and weaving, where children learn to make carpets, sew and embroider as well as to make pots and art from palm leaves; (j) the train: this is the main means of transportation which moves through the different parts of the garden; (k) the plant garden: this is an area used for cultivating different types of plants and has workshops to inform children about different types of plants and animals and how to take care of and deal with them.

A project developing 100 schools: Based on an initiative launched by H.E. Mrs. Suzan Mubarak in July 2006, the Association started a project to develop 100 schools in East Cairo with the help of businessmen. A total of 100 schools were renovated within 15 months. The renovation process included 2,860 classrooms and it benefited 150,000 students in 47 elementary schools, 29 preparatory schools, 13 high schools and 9 technical schools as well as 2 comprehensive schools. The renovation was not limited to the school buildings only; it included training for 1,200 teachers, 1,000 headmasters, 54 administrative staff and 120 women in the council of schools secretaries. It was decided to continue the project through the following steps: (a) first step: undertake small maintenance work during mid-year vacation for the schools that were renovated and undertake full maintenance work on the schools during the summer vacation to maintain its renovation status; (b) second step: to finish the training process for all the people involved in the project by 2010; (c) third step: to upgrade the technological infrastructure of these schools; (d) fourth step: the most important one, as it will guarantee the efficiency of the project based on a council of secretaries for the renovated schools. One hundred and twenty women participated in the project; (e) fifth step: related to providing health care, the fifth step is based on coordinating with the Ministry of Health as well as the health insurance agency to establish/upgrade the clinics in the renovated schools and provide computers with a link to the health insurance system network; in the meantime, the presence of doctors and nurses in the schools has been extended in proportion to the number of students in each school; (f) sixth step: to guarantee funding for the project for the year 2006/07 through donations by businessmen and the insurance companies. After the success of this project in these needy areas, in order to achieve comprehensive development of all the other services in these areas, the Government, through coordination with other ministries, undertook many development projects that solved problems by the end of 2008. The success of the project in Cairo encouraged the Association to extend it to other governorates.

Heliopolis Library: Since its inauguration in 1984, the Heliopolis Library has been considered one of the pioneer libraries in the field of cultural, social and technological activities. One of the main objectives of the Heliopolis Library is to educate youth. The library provides them with culture in various fields as well as helping them to develop their talents and skills by providing computer training programmes, workshops and seminars dealing with various topics and holding contests to train youth on competition and creativity. A computer centre affiliated to Heliopolis Library holds training programmes and lectures for youth and children.

Cinema club affiliated to Heliopolis Library: This cinema club was established in 1984 and it shows Arabic and foreign movies every Friday and Saturday. There is annual and semi-annual membership in the cinema club as well as tickets for non-members to allow everybody to enjoy the shows.

Future Library: Since its inauguration in 1994, the Future Library affiliated to the Association has worked hard to be a model for collective efforts aimed at serving and developing the society on the cultural, social and educational levels. The library witnessed remarkable progress on various activities: it held 22 computer courses which benefited 326 persons, in addition to 11 language courses which benefited 3,343 persons. The library organized 162 child-development courses that benefited

great intellectuals and artists, so as to introduce their models to the youth and children. The youth participated in organizing the activities held at the library to train them on the culture of volunteer work. It cooperated with the NGOs in Heliopolis through hosting a number of NGO activities of common interest such as seminars and workshops.

Seminars committee: This committee organized seminars dealing with different topics (political, religious, cultural, social and economic) to raise awareness on different aspects of the topics discussed.

Health committee: The Association exerts serious efforts to upgrade the medical service in governmental hospitals and medical centres in Cairo. It provided medical equipment to hospitals, medicines to poor patients and donations to hospitals and patients, and organized medical caravans and health awareness campaigns in different governorates and training courses to doctors and nurses to upgrade their skills.

Committee of associations, environment and customs protection: This committee helped to raise awareness on the environment and other issues in the society by organizing awareness campaigns and publications. The committee provided garbage bags to Heliopolis residents and it played a role in raising awareness on bird flu through publication on the disease and its symptoms, and how to prevent infection by the virus. The Ministry of Environment honoured the committee at a celebration on World Environment Day, 5 June 2007, for the distinguished effort in improving the environment and adding a touch of beauty to Heliopolis district. The committee played an important role in protecting customs, as it held a fair on fraudulent goods as well as printing publications on how to identify quality products, so as to raise customs' awareness on how to differentiate between the proper goods and the fraudulent ones. The committee celebrates the Day of the Orphan Child each year on 1 April. It invites famous singers and actors to celebrate with and distribute gifts to the orphans as well as to those who look after those orphans.

Committee of Heliopolis Golden Jubilee: This committee was established in 2005 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Heliopolis. The committee supervised preparations for the festival, as well as the celebration of International Women's Day, the spring festival and the anniversary of Heliopolis Library.